



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 5
 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
 CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

APR 26 2018

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

WW-16J

Mr. Kevin R. Dupuis, Sr., Chairman
 Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
 1720 Big Lake Road
 Cloquet, Minnesota 55720

Dear Chairman Dupuis, Sr.:

I am writing in response to your letters of March 8, 2018 (to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and April 4, 2018 (to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA), regarding the United Taconite, L.L.C. (UTac) mine expansion project. You requested that EPA notify the Fond du Lac Band that the proposed project "will affect" reservation waters. We note that your letter itself states that the Band has made such a determination.

Your letter of April 4 requests a hearing be held in this matter "to inform the Band membership and the general public of our concerns, and to provide for the development of appropriate permit conditions to ensure compliance with our water quality requirements." As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting agency, we defer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to respond to that request.

Sincerely,

Christopher Korleski,
 Director, Water Division